

current receipts for the General Fund.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland, please. Excuse me, were you through Senator Warner? All right. Senator Hoagland, please.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Let me rise in support of Senator Warner's amendment, if I can, Mr. Speaker. This bill was heard in the Judiciary Committee. It was reported out with no dissenting votes. We may even have advanced it on consent calendar although I am not sure of that. LB 525 makes a very important change in that it transfers our of the court system into the county clerk system the function of issuing marriage licenses. In the process of doing that, however, the state would suffer about a hundred thousand dollar loss in revenue. Senator Warner's amendment, by doubling the marriage license fee from 10 to 20 dollars would prevent that loss to the state. I think it's a legitimate fee increase. Let me give you a brief history on marriage license fees and why it is less expensive today to get married than it was just a few years ago and will continue to be less expensive today to get married even if we adopt this fee increase. It used to be that there was a fee for the performance of the marriage. If it was conducted by a judge, they had to go to the state and that was eliminated in 1984. The fee at the time it was eliminated was \$20. Additionally, prior to 1983 there was a syphilis test that was required prior to the issuance of a license and the charge for that was approximately \$15 and in 1983 that test and the attendant costs were eliminated. So back in the early 1980s, as you can see, it cost considerably more even than \$20 to get a marriage license when you add the syphilis test fee and, if you have the marriage performed by a judge, the cost to the state of that. I think also this is a reasonable fee increase in light of recent inflation. I don't think it's unreasonable to require a fee of \$20 for issuance of a marriage license. I would support this amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, I understand you want to talk about this amendment. May I interrupt Senator Chambers a moment to introduce a guest of Senator Lowell Johnson, guests of Senator Lowell Johnson in the north balcony. There are 33 fourth grade students from Clarkson School in Fremont, Nebraska, accompanied by their teachers. Would you all please stand by the Legislature. We're happy to have